officers any reason for being in the area of the Lorraine Motel at the time of the shooting of Reverend King. According to the arresting officers, these two individuals were placed in a marked patrol car, questioned, and then transferred to an unmarked police car for transportation to Central Police Headquarters. According to Inspector [redacted], Memphis Police Department, the handling of these prisoners was standard operating procedure and most persons arrested by tactical units during disturbances during this period were transported to Headquarters in unmarked cars, one arrestee to a car.

According to Mr. Flannery's memorandum, [redacted] claims that an unidentified Negro policeman was removed from his assignment at the Fire Station at about 5 p.m. on the day of the assassination. [redacted] identifies this policeman as [redacted]

[redacted] also states that two Negro firemen were moved from the station a day or two before the shooting. One of them had reportedly told friends that two or three days before Dr. King was shot a telescope or binoculars had been set up on a tripod in the Fire Station and focused on the Lorraine Motel balcony. According to this memorandum, [redacted] in August advised Flannery that one fireman left the Department or was suspended, shortly after the shooting, and that he had been unable to locate either of them.

In this regard, Inspector [redacted] Intelligence Unit, Memphis Police Department, advised on 11/18/68, that on 4/3/68 he assigned Detective [redacted] and Patrolman [redacted], Negro officers, both of whom are assigned to the Inspection Division of the Memphis Police Department, to a security detail at the Memphis Fire Station, Engine House #2, located at Butler and Main Streets. This location is approximately one block from the Lorraine Motel. The purpose of this assignment was to observe the activities of the "Invaders," local Black Power group at Memphis. A number of the "Invaders" were rooming at the Lorraine Motel at this time. These two officers were equipped with binoculars and were stationed in a room at the rear of the fire station, with a view that included

the room later occupied by the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.

In connection with this assignment, and prior to the time Officers [redacted] and [redacted] physically proceeded to this assigned location, it was determined by the Intelligence Unit of the Memphis Police Department that a Negro fireman stationed at the Fire Station and named [redacted] had taken an active part in demonstrations by the striking sanitaton workers in February and March, 1968, and had been closely associated with black militants connected with the strike. In order to insure security for Officers [redacted] and [redacted] and to insure that no information regarding the Memphis Police Department Intelligence Unit's efforts to keep abreast of the activities of the "Invaders" was leaked to the black militants in Memphis, the Chief of the Memphis Fire Department was requested to temporarily transfer Fireman [redacted] to another fire station. This was done on 4/3/68.

In addition, on 4/4/68, Negro Fireman [redacted] was routinely assigned from Fire Station #2 to Fire Station #31, due to a manpower shortage at Fire Station #31.

On 11/18/68, [redacted] advised that by letter dated 5/18/68, Fireman [redacted] resigned from the Memphis Fire Department after thirteen years of service, giving as his reason for leaving "Personal Reasons." [redacted] advised it is his understanding that [redacted] has become an active worker with the NAACP at Memphis subsequent to his resignation from the Memphis Fire Department.

At approximately 4:15 p.m. on 4/4/68, Lt. [redacted] of the Intelligence Unit of the Memphis Police Department, on instructions from Inspector [redacted] proceeded to Fire Engine House #2 and removed Detective [redacted] from this station, leaving Officer [redacted] at this post. The reason for the removal of Officer [redacted] was due to the receipt of a telephone call on the morning of 4/4/68 by [redacted] for Senator McClellan's Senate Investigating Committee, Washington, D. C., to the effect that information had been

received by the Committee that a Negro detective on the Memphis Police Department was to be killed.

Due to Detective [redacted] activities in attending meetings of the striking sanitation workers in February and March 1968, [redacted] had been threatened on several occasions. Inspector [redacted] therefore believed the telephone call received by the McClellan Committee was another threat directed against [redacted]. He therefore ordered [redacted] removed from his lookout post at Engine House #2 for [redacted] own protection. A police guard of two officers was assigned to [redacted] and his family as a result of this threat.

A review of the tapes of the Memphis Police Department radio transmissions for April 4, 1968, failed to reflect any transmissions from Police Dispatcher ordering [redacted] to move from his observation post and, in fact, it has been ascertained that no radio equipment was maintained by the Police officers at this observation post with which to receive radio transmissions.

According to this memorandum, [redacted] mentions something to the effect that [redacted] of the Memphis Police Department telephonically contacted the Lorraine Motel regarding stationing detectives at the motel.

In this regard, [redacted] as advised that he does not recall talking to any maid at the Lorraine Motel on 4/4/68; however, he stated he had been in telephonic contact on a number of occasions with [redacted] regarding the identity of certain individuals registered at the Motel.

It has been determined from the Memphis Police Department that on the morning of 4/3/68, Memphis [redacted] ordered [redacted] of the Department to send a detail of men to the Memphis Metropolitan Airport to offer security to the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. and his party. Police records reflect that Inspector [redacted] offered the services of the police detail to [redacted]

[redacted] who was acting as chauffeur for Dr. Martin Luther King. Mrs. Mathews advised Lt. [redacted] Memphis Police Department, who is an officer in this detail, that they had not asked for police to be assigned to protect Dr. King, and did not desire a police escort. In addition, members of King's party refused to tell the police detail where they planned to stay or their itinerary while in Memphis. Inspector [redacted] while offering the services of the Memphis Police Department to Dr. King for security, escort, and protection purposes, was advised by the Reverend [redacted], an associate of King, that no assistance was desired and that they had not fully made up their minds where they were going with Reverend KING after they left the Memphis Metropolitan Airport.

At approximately 1:30 a.m., on 4/5/68, [redacted] a member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) Strategy Committee, advised [redacted] of the Memphis Police Department that this SCLC Strategy Committee had considered asking for police protection for the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.; however, the Committee had decided against this.

According to Mr. Flannery's memorandum, [redacted] stated that a little Negro boy allegedly heard a shot and saw a man jump up from the bushes behind the rooming house (below the window area from which the shot is thought to have been fired) and run off. According to [redacted] the little boy has been identified and interviewed by Bureau Agents and the Memphis Police Department.

In this regard, a review of the records of the Memphis Police Department and the Memphis FBI Office has failed to reveal any information to indicate that any officers of these respective law enforcement agencies interviewed a young Negro boy who is allegedly the contributor of the above information by [redacted] In this regard, on 11/15/68, Source One and Source Two both advised that [redacted] a "Time" magazine

reporter, had gone throughout the Memphis area immediately following the King slaying, and was overheard asking leading questions of Negroes, namely, "You think it's possible that a police officer could have killed Martin Luther King, Jr.?" According to these sources, as a result of this, practically the entire Memphis Negro community has given vent to the rumor that a police officer had killed King. The sources claim this rumor has embittered a very large segment of the Negro community and has caused widespread distrust by Negroes against all law enforcement officers and has caused a serious community cleavage between the Police and the Negro community.

In view of the fact that numerous allegations have been made, either by [redacted] or his alleged sources, stating involvement of Memphis police officers in the assassination of Dr. King, Frank Holloman, Director of Fire & Police, was contacted. Holloman advised that shortly after the assassination of Dr. King he received information that a representative of "Time" magazine was circulating in thd Negro community and asking questions of the Negro residents. His sources informed him that the general tenor of the questions being asked was to the effect that it was conceivable that the Memphis Police Department was involved in the assassination of Dr. King. Director Holloman advised that later he learned the reported "Time" representative was an individual by the name of [redacted] He subsequently had an appointment with [redacted]

Director Holloman said at this time he informed [redacted] that he had received certain information indicating that [redacted] had, by his questions, created the inference in the Negro community that it was possible the Memphis Police Department was involved in the assassination of Dr. King. Director Holloman advised that he told [redacted] that if [redacted] wrote a story based on rumors and misstatements of facts such as he was collecting regarding the involvement of the Memphis Police Department, Director Holloman would institute a civil suit against him and do everything in his power to insure that [redacted] wrote only the truth and did not print such falsifications regarding the Memphis Police Department.

Re: James Earl Ray

Director Holloman stated that after his discussion with [redacted] has not again called at his office for any information, nor has any story appeared.

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BLACK ORGANIZING PROJECT (BOP),
Also known as Black Organizing Power,
Afro-American Brotherhood,
Black Student Association,
Invaders,
LeMoyne Intercollegiate Chapter of the
National Association for the Advancement
of Colored People (NAACP),
City Organizers

On April 18, 1968, a third source advised that a black power group in Memphis which has been in existence for several months has until recently been known as Black Organizing Power. It is now known as Black Organizing Project (BOP), also known as Black Organizing Power, with five cells or parts, known as (1) Afro-American Brotherhood (AAB), primarily consisting of Owen College students; (2) Black Student Association (BSA), primarily consisting of Memphis State University (MSU) Negro students; (3) LeMoyne Intercollegiate Chapter of the NAACP, consisting of LeMoyne College students; (4) the Invaders, consisting mostly of high school dropouts; and (5) the City Organizers, comprised of young adults.

AAB has about 12 members; BSA has about 20 members; the Invaders has about 15 members; the LeMoyne group has about 20 members; and the City Organizers has about 20 members.

Source three advised that the BOP attempts to create pride in black identity, attempts to teach and promote the teaching of Negro history, and to promote black culture and obtain more employment for young Negroes.

The Executive Secretary of BOP is Charles Laverne Cabbage.

On February 16, 1968, Charles Laverne Cabbage personally acknowledge being leader of BOP, claiming he is the impetus of black power in Memphis, Tennessee, and that BOP's purpose is to stimulate in the young Negroes a sense of black identity, black pride, and black consciousness. He said his group follows the teachings of Student Nonviolent

Coordinating Committee (SNCC) leaders H. Rap Brown and Stokely Carmichael but that BOP did not necessarily exist as a formal SNCC unit. CABBAGE further admitted he had made statements such as "Memphis should be burned" and "Memphis should have a good race riot," but claimed he did not mean these statements literally, merely endeavoring to shock the community into doing something to help the black race.

On February 27, 1968, a fourth source advised that at a public meeting on February 26, 1968, the BOP Chairman John Burrell Smith told a Negro audience, "We've got to do some fighting," and "You'd better get some guns. You're going to need them before this is over. You can't pray your way out."

On June 6, 1968, the fourth source advised that BOP primarily consists of about 30 to 35 young college and high school students and school dropouts, unemployed and not looking for work, who continually preach hatred of the white race and capitalistic economic system and advocating and predicting violence by blacks. The over-all plan of BOP, according to source four, is to scare the Memphis community leaders, both black and white, into fearing black militancy. The BOP leaders then hope to convince the community to fund them as a form of subtle blackmail whereby BOP can prevent racial violence. Source four said that BOP is more interested in publicity and money than in direct action, but is nevertheless preaching violence in an effort to scare the community.

FD-323 (Rev. 11-29-61)

UNITED STATES DE MENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU VESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Memphis, Tennessee
November 21, 1968

Title James Earl Ray, Aka.;
Dr. Martin Luther King, Victim

Character Civil Rights - Conspiracy

Reference Memorandum dated November 21, 1968, and captioned as above.

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

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